

PATENT**IN THE UNITED STATES PATENT AND TRADEMARK OFFICE****In re Application of: Michael L. Hill, et al.****Serial No.: 10/771,922****Filed: 02/04/2004****For: Guide plate for roller-chain conveyor****Examiner: VALENZA, Joseph E.****Group Art Unit: 3651****Attorney Docket No.: B31-180****CERTIFICATE OF TRANSMISSION**

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Sir:

1. I, Michael L. Hill, am one of the joint inventors of the subject matter which is claimed and for which patent protection is sought on the above-referenced invention entitled: "Guide plate for roller-chain conveyor".
2. I hereby declare that all statements made herein of my own knowledge are true and that all statements made on information and belief are believed to be true.
3. Sharp chain conveyors structured in substantially the same way have been used in the lumber industry for well over 20 years.

4. Sharp chain conveyors used in the lumber industry traditionally include a guide plate surface structured from hardened steel.
5. Hampton Lumber Co., the largest producer of dimensional lumber in North America, owns saw mills having several sharp chain conveyors in each mill.
6. A representative life span of a prior art hardened steel guide plate of a sharp chain conveyor used in a Hampton Lumber Co. sawmill is about six months.
7. A representative life span of a sharp chain used with a prior art hardened steel guide plate of a sharp chain conveyor in a Hampton Lumber Co. sawmill is about six months.
9. Although a certain reduction in oil consumption was anticipated, oil consumption of a single sharp chain conveyor in a Hampton Lumber Co. sawmill unexpectedly decreased from about 2,350 gallons per month to only about 250-275 gallons per month subsequent to installation of a guide plate assembly structured according to the instant invention.
10. Demonstrated life span of the TyvarTM plastic guide plates used in a Hampton Lumber Co. sawmill has unexpectedly increased to in excess of 19 months (still not worn out), compared to the approximately six month life of a prior art hardened steel guide plate, and anticipated six month life of the improved guide plate.
11. Life span of a sharp chain used with guide plates structured according to the instant invention has unexpectedly increased to at least nine months, compared to the anticipated substantially equivalent life span.
12. The failure mode of a sharp chain used with a guide plate structured according to the instant invention in a Hampton Lumber Co. sawmill has unexpectedly changed from fatigue fracture of the side plate to wear of the rollers.

13. Subsequent to a demonstration field test of an improved guide plate assembly, Hampton Lumber Co. has replaced 100% of their prior art hardened steel guide plate assemblies with guide plate assemblies structured according to the invention.

14. According to Al Rasmussen in the Maintenance department at Caffel Brothers of 540 3rd Ave., Vancouver, WA 98632, a sawmill specializing in cedar products, the prior art conveyor having a steel guide plate had a life span of about three months, while a replacement conveyor structured according to the instant invention has surprisingly lasted almost a full year, and is not yet worn out.

15. On information and belief, representatives from two equipment manufacturing companies (COE & NEUNES MEGEHEE, Canada P.O. Box 8 Salmon Arm Canada v1e4n2; and CAN-AM CHAINS, P.O. BOX 5087 PORTLAND OREGON 97208) have made visits to Wilamina Lumber Mills to gather information on our design, and have made offers to sell the imitation to Wilamina Lumber Co.

16. And finally, I acknowledge that the foregoing statements were made with the knowledge that willful false statements and the like so made are punishable by fine or imprisonment, or both, under 18 U.S.C. 1001 and that such willful false statements may jeopardize the validity of the above-referenced application or any patent issued thereon.

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Michael Lee Hill

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